(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether, after the increase of lending rates on term deposits with banks, the rate of inflation has been affected; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) As a part of the credit policy for the first half of 1995-96 announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the maximum term deposit rate has been raised by one percentage point. The existing and the revised term deposits rates (excluding non-resident deposits) are given below:

(Per cent per annum)

Duration	Existing Rates	New Rates (Effective April 18, 1995)
46 days to 3 years and above	'Not exceeding' 11.00	'Not exceeding' 12.00

Most banks have as a result, raised interest rates on term deposits of various maturity. As a consequence of the higher cost of resources most banks have also raised their prime-lending rate by 0.5 per cent (from 15.0 per cent to 15.5 per cent) excluding interest tax.

As per latest available data, inflation rate, as measured by the index numbers of whole sale prices on year point at point basis was 8.74 per cent, as on 22nd April, 1995. It is too early to assess the impact of increase in maximum deposit rate on rate of inflation.

Concessions for blind persons

*500. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether blind persons get some concessions for travelling by air;

(b) whether there is a persistent demand by the associations of the handicapped persons in the country to extend this concession; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to high cost of operations, such concessions to physically and mentally handicapped persons is not possible.

Vacancies of aircraft technicians in Air India at Madras station

5195. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies exist at Madras station of Air India for posting of aircraft technicians;

(b) the details in this regard in respect of avionics and air frame/engine streams, separately;

(c) how many technicians have been posted against these vacancies in the past